

TWENTY-NINTH DISTRICT.

Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, Zapata, Webb, Maverick, Kinney, Uvalde, Medina, Nueces, San Patricio, Live Oak, and Frio counties, with the unorganized counties of Duval, Encinal, McMullen, La Salle, Dimmett, and Zavala; Nueces the returning county.—John Salmon Ford, of Brownsville, Cameron county, was born in Greenville District, South Carolina, May 26, 1815; moved, with his father, to Tennessee, in 1817; came to Texas in June, 1836, and settled in San Augustine; entered the army of the young Republic (having raised a company of men in Tennessee), and served during the years 1836, '37, '38, and '39; was elected to Congress, in 1844, and introduced the resolution in that body, in 1845, to accept the terms of annexation to the United States; he settled in Austin, in 1845, and became editor of the *Texas Democrat*; was adjutant of Col. Jack Hays' Regiment in the war with Mexico, and was commended to the Secretary of War, for gallant conduct on several occasions; in 1849, accompanied Major R. S. Neighbors, on a trip of exploration, to El Paso; in the same year, was captain of rangers, stationed between the Nueces and Rio Grande, and had a number of engagements with the Indians in 1849, '50, and '51, and was complimented in general orders, by General Brooke, U. S. A., then commanding in Texas; in 1852, elected to the State Senate; again entered the editorial role, and in connection with Captain Joe. Walker, established *The State Times*, which was published until 1857; in 1858, was in command of the State troops, and defeated the Indians in two engagements, on the South Canadian; in the latter part of 1859, was sent to the lower Rio Grande, to operate against Cortina, whom he defeated and routed, capturing two pieces of artillery, and killing a large number of Mexicans; he again defeated Cortina, in February, 1860, at La Bolsa, in Mexico, and again, under Captain (now General) Stoneman, at La Mesa, and finally at Cortina's own ranch, in Magote, which ended what was known as the "Cortina War;" in 1861, Colonel Ford was a member of the Secession Convention; commanded an expedition to Brazos Santiago, in February, of the same year; was elected colonel of the Second Texas Cavalry, and had command of the Rio Grande District; was commandant of conscripts in the latter part of 1862; on May 13, 1865, Colonel Ford, in command of less than three hundred mounted men, and one battery of six pieces, engaged and defeated Colonel Barrett, in command of three regiments, near the Palmetto Rancho, Cameron county. This is believed to have been the last engagement of the war. After the surrender, he was parole commissioner on the part of the Confederates; in 1868, Colonel F. edited the *Brownsville Sentinel*; was a delegate to the Baltimore (Democratic) Convention of 1872, and in 1875, a member of the Constitutional Convention; he was elected to the Senate under the new Constitution, February 15, 1876, as a Democrat, by a large majority. Colonel Ford will be sixty-four years old in May next, but is erect, active, of strong constitution, and with an intellect in fullest vigor. His term expires November, 1880.